

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 156566  
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 SS-15  
NSC-05 L-03 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01  
PPTE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY NTSB:ALBRUNSTEIN/EB/AVP:JMROBERTS:PMA  
APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:SCKEITER  
ARA/PAN:DGWAGNER  
NTSB:EMONTGOMERY  
EB/AVP:JSGRAVATT

-----074536 062008Z /72

O 061946Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 156566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PA

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF LOCKHEED ELECTRA N126US

1. THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT N126US DISAPPEARED FROM RADAR SCOPES ON JULY 3, 1977 ABOUT 80 MILES NNE OF BALBOA, CANAL ZONE. DEPARTMENT AND NTSB WISH TO KNOW IF GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA (GOP) WILL CONDUCT AN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION. IF SO, THE NTSB DESIRES TO ASSIST AND IS PREPARED SEND AN ACCREDITED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR IMMEDIATELY.

2. IF GOP DETERMINES THAT THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT CRASH IN ITS TERRITORY (AND THEREFORE CRASHED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS), THE NTSB WILL INVESTIGATE SINCE THE AIRCRAFT WAS OF US REGISTRY.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMB DETERMINE ASAP WHETHER THE GOP CONSIDERS N126US TO HAVE CRASHED WITHIN ITS TERRITORY AND IF THEY PLAN TO INVESTIGATE THIS ACCIDENT. IF THEY DO PLAN TO INVESTIGATE, INFORM APPROPRIATE GOP AUTHORITIES THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 26 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND CHAPTER IV OF

ICAO ANNEX 13 THE NTSB DESIRES TO PARTICIPATE.

4. FYI: ARTICLE 26 OF THE 1944 CHICAGO CONVENTION ON  
INTL. CIVIL AVIATION PROVIDES THAT "IN THE EVENT OF AN  
ACCIDENT TO AN AIRCRAFT OF A CONTRACTING STATE IN THE  
TERRITORY OF ANOTHER CONTRACTING STATE...INVOLVING  
DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY...THE STATE IN WHICH THE ACCIDENT  
OCCURS SHALL INSTITUTE AN INQUIRY...THE STATE IN WHICH  
THE AIRCRAFT IS REGISTERED SHALL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO APPOINT OBSERVERS TO BE PRESENT AT THE INQUIRY..."  
INTL. CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) ANNEX 13  
CONTAINS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED  
PRACTICES FOR ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS. CHAPTER IV  
STIPULATES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE STATE OF  
REGISTRY SHALL INFORM THE STATE OF OCCURRENCE WHETHER IT  
INTENDS TO BE PRESENT AT THE INVESTIGATION. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 156566  
ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY:EB:OA:AVP:JMROBERTS  
APPROVED BY:EB:OA:AVP:SCKEITER  
-----091671 270639Z /21  
R 270503Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS STATE 156566

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED JULY 6, 1977  
SENT PANAMA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 156566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PA

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF LOCKHEED ELECTRA N126US

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INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT N126US DISAPPEARED FROM RADAR  
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CANAL ZONE. DEPARTMENT AND NTSB WISH TO KNOW IF GOVERNMENT  
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IF SO, THE NTSB DESIRES TO ASSIST AND IS PREPARED SEND  
AN ACCREDITED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR IMMEDIATELY.

2. IF GOP DETERMINES THAT THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT CRASH  
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WAS OF US REGISTRY.

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VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MISSING AIRCRAFT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE156566  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ALBRUNSTEIN/EB/AVP:JMROBERTS:PMA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770240-0105  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770786/aaaacxdb.tel  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 486c3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1948243  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISAPPEARANCE OF LOCKHEED ELECTRA N126US  
**TAGS:** EAIR, PA, US, NTSB  
**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/486c3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009